AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Previously Presented) A cooking vessel comprising a pan and a removable lid assembly comprising a lid having a generally convex upper surface and a generally concave lower surface and a peripheral rim, said lid assembly further comprising a knob assembly on said upper surface and defining at least one aperture through said knob assembly and said lid, said lid assembly further comprising a thermometer including a probe extending downward through said aperture and a temperature display, wherein said probe has a bottom end disposed above the rim, said probe containing a temperature sensing device disposed beneath said aperture and within said cooking vessel, wherein said knob assembly includes a whistle body that provides an audible signal in response to flow of vapor therethrough, and a movable member having a dual function notch formed therein that operates selectively both as a release to selectively permit removal of the movable member for cleaning, and as a slot for vapor discharge to selectively enable the whistle body.

3. (Previously Presented) A cooking vessel in accordance with claim 2 wherein said knob assembly further includes a knob body attached to said lid, and a vapor discharge aperture communicating with said whistle body through which vapor from the whistle body is discharged, and wherein said dual function notch is movable between a whistle-enabling position in which said notch is aligned with said vapor discharge aperture to permit discharge of vapor therethrough, and a range of whistle-disabling positions in which said notch is not

aligned with said discharge aperture, such that said movable member inhibits discharge of vapor therethrough.

4. (Original) A cooking vessel in accordance with claim 3 wherein said knob body includes a retaining member, and wherein said notch is movable between a release position in which it is aligned with said retaining member and in which said movable member may be removed from said knob body, and a retained position in which said notch is not aligned with said retaining member, and said retaining member prevents removal of said movable member from said knob body.

5. (Original) A cooking vessel in accordance with claim 4 wherein said movable member is rotatable.

6. (Original) A cooking vessel in accordance with claim 5 wherein said thermometer is fixedly attached to said movable member.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously Presented) A cooking vessel lid assembly comprising a lid with an upper surface and a knob assembly on said upper surface of said lid, said knob assembly including a whistle and a movable member having a dual function notch formed therein that operates selectively both as a release to selectively permit removal of the movable member for cleaning, and as a slot for vapor discharge to selectively enable said whistle.

9. (Previously Presented) A cooking vessel lid assembly in accordance with claim 8 wherein said upper surface of said lid is generally convex and said lid includes a generally concave lower surface and a peripheral rim.

10. (Previously Presented) A cooking vessel lid assembly in accordance with claim 8 wherein said lid assembly includes an aperture through said knob assembly and said lid, said lid assembly further including a thermometer extending through said aperture.

11. (Previously Presented) A cooking vessel lid assembly in accordance with claim 10 wherein said thermometer includes a probe extending downward through said aperture and a temperature display, wherein said probe has a bottom end disposed above said rim.

12. (Previously Presented) A cooking vessel lid assembly in accordance with claim 8 wherein said knob assembly includes a knob body attached to said lid, a whistle body of said whistle that provides an audible signal in response to flow of vapor therethrough, and a vapor discharge aperture communicating with said whistle body through which vapor from the whistle body is discharged, and wherein said dual function notch is movable between a whistle-enabling position in which said notch is aligned with said vapor discharge aperture to permit discharge of vapor therethrough, and a range of whistle-disabling positions in which said notch is not aligned with said discharge aperture, such that said movable member inhibits discharge of vapor therethrough.

13. (Previously Presented) A cooking vessel lid assembly in accordance with claim 12 wherein said knob body includes a retaining member, and wherein said notch is movable between a release position in which it is aligned with said retaining member and in which said movable member may be removed from said knob body, and a retained position in which said notch is not aligned with said retaining member, and said retaining member prevents removal of said movable member from said knob body.

14. (Previously Presented) A cooking vessel lid assembly in accordance with claim 13 wherein said movable member is rotatable.

15. (Previously Presented) A cooking vessel assembly comprising a pan, a removable lid assembly comprising a lid having a generally convex upper surface and a generally concave lower surface and a peripheral rim, said lid assembly further comprising a knob assembly on said upper surface and defining at least one aperture through said knob assembly and said lid, said lid assembly further comprising a thermometer including a probe extending downward through said aperture and a temperature display, wherein said probe has a bottom end disposed above the rim, said knob assembly including a whistle body that provides an audible signal in response to flow of vapor therethrough, and a movable member having a dual function notch formed therein that operates both as a release to selectively permit removal of the movable member for cleaning, and as a slot for vapor discharge to selectively enable the whistle.

16. (Previously Presented) A cooking vessel in accordance with claim 15 wherein said knob assembly further includes a knob body attached to said lid, and a vapor discharge aperture communicating with said whistle body through which vapor from the whistle body is discharged, and wherein said dual function notch is movable between a whistle-enabling position in which said notch is aligned with said vapor discharge aperture to permit discharge of vapor therethrough, and a range of whistle-disabling positions in which said notch is not aligned with said discharge aperture, such that said movable member inhibits discharge of vapor therethrough.

17. (Previously Presented) A cooking vessel in accordance with claim 16 wherein said knob body includes a retaining member, and wherein said notch is movable between a release position in which it is aligned with said retaining member and in which said movable member may be removed from said knob body, and a retained position in which said notch is not aligned with said retaining member, and said retaining member prevents removal of said movable member from said knob body.

18. (Previously Presented) A cooking vessel in accordance with claim 17 wherein said movable member is rotatable.

19. (Previously Presented) A cooking vessel in accordance with claim 18 wherein said thermometer is fixedly attached to said movable member.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Canceled)

22. (Canceled)

23. (Canceled)

24. (Previously Presented) A waterless cooking utensil comprising:

a pan and a corresponding lid having an upper surface, a lower surface and a peripheral rim;

a knob assembly positioned on the upper surface of the lid;

at least one aperture extending through both the knob assembly and the lid;

a thermometer having a temperature display thereon and including a probe inserted through the at least one aperture;

the thermometer being selectively removable from the knob assembly for cleaning;

the probe having a bottom end such that when the thermometer is inserted through the aperture, the probe bottom end extends a predetermined distance beneath the lower surface of the lid such that the bottom end thereof is disposed above the lid peripheral rim to permit the thermometer to be rapidly responsive to temperature changes within the pan;

the knob assembly includes a recess and a separate holding base removable from the knob assembly recess, the separate holding base surrounding the temperature display of the thermometer and defining a notch therein, the separate holding base for selectively supporting the thermometer in the recess of the knob assembly; and

the knob assembly includes a retaining flange configured to selectively cooperate with the separate holding base to permit removal of the thermometer from the knob assembly when the notch is aligned with the retaining flange and to retain the thermometer to the knob assembly when a portion of the separate holding base engages the retaining flange.

25. (Previously Presented) The waterless cooking utensil of claim 24, wherein the bottom end of the probe extends less than about 1.5 inches beneath the lower surface of the lid.

26. (Previously Presented) The waterless cooking utensil of claim 24, wherein the probe is a thin-walled, hollow tubular structure and the bottom end contains a temperature sensing device communicating with the temperature display.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Canceled)

29. (Previously Presented) The waterless cooking utensil of claim 24, wherein the knob assembly has a profile such that the lid may be inverted and nested in the pan where the knob assembly generally does not contact a bottom surface of the pan.

30. (Previously Presented) The waterless cooking utensil of claim 24, wherein the separate holding base is configured for receipt in the recess in the knob assembly and operable for selective removal of the thermometer without separate tools.

31. (Previously Presented) The waterless cooking utensil of claim 24, wherein the separate holding base includes a knob portion surrounding the temperature display and an outwardly extending flange portion defining the notch therein.

32. (Previously Presented) The waterless cooking utensil of claim 24, wherein the separate holding base is formed from a thermally insulative material.